

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A stator comprising:

a cylindrical iron core including a plurality of slots provided around an inner circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core and a plurality of concave portions provided around an outer circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core, and a welded portion in which abutting end faces of the cylindrical iron core are only partially welded together at ~~[[an]]~~ the outer circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core so that the cylindrical iron core has a lower radial crushing strength at the welded portion than at other portions of the cylindrical iron core, wherein the welded portion lies between two adjacent concave portions of the plurality of concave portions; and

a coil disposed in the slots.

Claims 2-10, 13 and 14 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A stator comprising:

a cylindrical iron core including a plurality of slots provided around an inner circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core, a plurality of concave portions provided around an outer circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core, a welded portion in which abutting end

faces of the cylindrical iron core are welded, and a notch portion provided in an inner wall surface of one of the slots; and

a coil disposed in the slots,

wherein the welded portion lies between two adjacent concave portions of the plurality of concave portions, and the notch portion comprises a linear slit extending only partially through the cylindrical iron core in a radial direction so that the cylindrical iron core has a lower radial crushing strength at the notch portion than at other portions of the cylindrical iron core.

12. (Previously Presented) The stator according to claim 11, wherein the cylindrical iron core includes four notch portions provided in the inner wall surfaces of four of the slots located at intervals of 90 degrees around the inner circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core.